

TOM UDALL

3D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

**DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE****AT-LARGE WHIP**1414 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190811 SAINT MICHAELS DRIVE
SUITE 104
SANTA FE, NM 87505
(505) 984-8950www.tomudall.house.gov**Congress of the United States****House of Representatives**

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January 21, 2005

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Tyler Przybylek, Chairman
Source Evaluation Board
National Nuclear Security Administration
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Mr. Przybylek,

I am writing to convey the concerns and recommendations of some of my constituents in response to the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the competitive selection of a management and operations (M&O) contractor for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Since the release of the draft RFP on December 1, 2004, I have been contacted by many LANL employees, retirees and members of the Los Alamos community expressing their opinions and suggestions about numerous aspects of the draft. In order to better understand the range of these stakeholders' concerns, I held a Town Hall meeting at the Los Alamos High School on January 17, 2005, attended by nearly 300 people.

The individuals and groups who have contacted me and who attended the Town Hall meeting largely share three predominant concerns. Perhaps most importantly, many are troubled because the employee benefits' package that a new contractor may provide is not part of the selection criteria. They fear that it will thus be impossible for the Source Evaluation Board (SEB) to ensure that the new contractor will provide the incentives necessary to continue to recruit and retain the scientists and professionals needed to maintain the level of excellence required to achieve LANL's national security mission.

Secondly, many current employees who are close to retirement age are very concerned that they will be forced to retire prematurely in order to preserve the University of California pension benefits they have been working toward throughout their careers. This potential mass exodus of individuals with decades of experience would not only leave each individual feeling duped by the Department of Energy, it would also create a "brain drain" of important talent and expertise. Thirdly, current LANL retirees are requesting that the continuation of their pension and health care benefits be expressly dictated in the language of the RFP.

Finally, I strongly believe that enhancing the economic development element of LANL's mission, which includes expanding its commitment to small businesses in the area, will have a significant positive impact on New Mexico's economy. This

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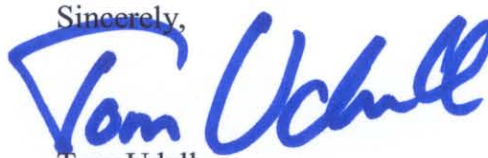
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competitive bidding process offers an important opportunity to enhance this aspect of LANL's mission for the benefit of the greater Los Alamos community.

I have attached two documents that I hope you will regard with special consideration as you prepare the final RFP. The first is the transcript of the January 17th Town Hall meeting. I believe this conveys well the range of issues being expressed by many of the individuals who will be most significantly affected by the results of this competition. Please include this transcript as part of my comments. The second is a list of concerns and suggestions prepared by the Economic Development Department of New Mexico. These suggestions are worth serious review by the SEB.

I sincerely appreciate the level of responsiveness to stakeholder concerns you have demonstrated to date. Extending both the public comment and the transition periods and making yourself readily available to the community by attending an additional public meeting and setting up direct lines for stakeholder communication with the SEB will help build community trust and goodwill. Please feel free to contact my office at any time to discuss any matter related to LANL and the M&O contractor competition.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress